



SHELLHARBOUR GAME FISHING CLUB

2026 BLUE WATER CLASSIC

6th to 9th March 2026



	Surname	First Name	M / F /JNR / SFRY	Club
Captain:				
Crew:				
Boat Name:				Boat length over 8 metres? YES/NO
Number of Crew and Family attending briefing dinner on Thursday 5th March:				

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES: Angler fee includes Tournament Dinner

		Cost	Number	TOTAL
ANGLERS	ADULTS Male and female anglers	\$180 each		
	JUNIORS 16 and under	\$75 each		
	SMALL FRYS 11 and under	\$45 each		
	LATE ENTRY FEES Fee per angler for entries after 12pm Thursday 5 th March 2026	\$30 each		
BOAT	BEST SHEDS \$50,000 Heaviest Blue Marlin Competition	\$350 PER BOAT		
BOAT	DAY 1 SHOOT OUT	\$200 PER BOAT		
BOAT	CALCUTTA PRE PURCHASE	\$300 PER BOAT		
DINNER	Extra tickets to Tournament dinner	\$50 each		
				Total Amount Payable

BOAT SPECIFICATIONS (To be completed by Team Captain)

Name of Boat Registration Number Game Fishing Club
Make Length
Type - Full Cabin Half Cabin Other
Colour - Hull Deck Flybridge
Number of Engines Make Horsepower Fuel Type
Insurer Policy Number Renewal Date

TRAILER BOATS - Vehicle Registration Trailer Registration

On Board Mobile Number Secondary On Board Mobile Number

**As a minimum ALL VESSELS MUST be equipped with the minimum radio channels - 27.88 MHZ and 27.94 MHZ.
All Radio / Communication equipment must be in proper working order prior to entering this tournament.**

SAFETY CHECKLIST Please answer each with YES or NO

Radio Equipment: 27 MHzVHF
Navigational Equipment: RadarGPSDepth Sounder
406MHz EPIRBEPIRB Registration Number.....
SEA ANCHORV SHEET
REFLECTIVE MIRRORPARACHUTE FLARES:
2 ORANGE SMOKE FLARES:2 RED STAR FLARES:
EMERGENCY RATIONS (7 DAYS)PADDLE:.....
FRESH WATER (2L per person)BAILING BUCKET

My crew and I agree to abide by the Rules of this Tournament and understand that any clarification requested by us will be provided by the Tournament Committee at the Pre-Tournament Briefing. In addition, we agree that participation is at our own risk and that the holding of this Tournament is not construed as an invitation to go to sea in conditions beyond the capabilities of both Crew and Craft. The Shellharbour Game Fishing Club Inc will not be responsible or be liable for any loss or damage to any person, property personal injury or death how so ever occasioned at any time during the tournament.

Prior to signing this entry form, I have a full understanding of the tournament rules and conditions listed above.

CAPTAINS DETAILS – must complete:

Team Captain
Address and mobile number
Emergency contact person name and mobile number
Signed: Date: / /

ENTRIES AND PAYMENT METHOD

Please complete Entry Form and Safety Check List and return together with the appropriate fees by 12pm 5th of March 2026 to:

Tournament Secretary: Kylie Burley
Shellharbour Game Fishing Club Inc.
emailed to: shellharbourgamefishingclub@gmail.com
OR by post to: PO BOX 4175
Shellharbour NSW 2529

Entry Fees should be made payable to Shellharbour Game Fishing Club Inc and be included with the Entry Form.

Entries can be paid by Direct Deposit to:

Name: Shellharbour Game Fishing Club
BSB: 641 800
Account No: 200370224
Reference: **BOAT NAME**

Please use your BOAT NAME as the reference for the payment so that it is able to be allocated to your team.

Late entries will be accepted at the Tournament Briefing until 7:00pm on Thursday 5th March 2026.
There will be a late entry fee of \$30 per angler for entries received after 12pm on Thursday 5th March 2026.

For further information with regards to this event, please contact the following Tournament Committee:

President & Tournament Coordinator: Shane Burley - 0437780333

Tournament Weighmaster: Anthony Norval – 0422589012

Tournament Base Radio: Kylie Burley - 0432340281

TOURNAMENT RULES

SHELLHARBOUR BLUE WATER CLASSIC

March 6th TO 9th 2026

NOTICE TO ALL SKIPPERS AND ANGLERS. YOU MUST DECIDE THE SAFETY OF YOUR VESSEL AND CREW BEFORE SETTING OUT TO SEA AND ASSESS THE CONDITIONS. SHELLHARBOUR GAME FISHING CLUB AND ITS COMMITTEE TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR DECISION. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY (CANCELLATION OF TOURNAMENT COVERED IN LATER SECTIONS)

1. Teams

Teams must be comprised of not less than 2 registered anglers for boats up to 7 metres and a minimum of 3 registered anglers for boats above 7 metres. Each boat will be given a number to be used for radio scheds.

2. Entries

Entries can be made by submitting a completed entry form together with the appropriate fees, as listed on the entry form, together with details of current insurance emailed to shellharbourgamefishingclub@gmail.com

Entry forms are to be completed and submitted before 12pm Thursday 5 March 2026. Insurance details for each vessel must also accompany any completed boat entry form. **One Angler from each team must attend the briefing ** INCLUDING TRAVELLING BOATS****. The committee may accept special circumstances at their discretion – please contact to discuss.

The Shellharbour Game Fishing Club reserves the right to refuse entry to the tournament. All registered adult anglers must hold a current NSW fishing license unless exempt from doing so. Junior anglers are eligible for all prizes. Small Fry anglers are not eligible to compete for the Standalone Category of Heaviest Blue Marlin over 175kgs.

3. Late Entries

Late entries will be accepted at the briefing up until 7:00pm Thursday 5th March 2026.

There will be a late entry fee of \$30 per angler for entries received after 12pm on Thursday 5th March 2026.

4. Insurance

Each vessel entered in the tournament is to provide a copy of their current insurance details covering third-party property damage and third-party personal injury cover of a minimum of 5 million Dollars. All insurance details must be current to compete in this tournament.

5. Membership

Any person who is not a financial member of a club affiliated with NSWGFA, GFAA, or ANSA will be required to pay a club membership fee, in addition to the tournament entry fee.

6. Tournament Committee

The committee of the **SHELLHARBOUR GAMEFISHING CLUB** are the sole adjudicators of all aspects of the Tournament and Rules, and their decision will be final.

7. Venue

The Tournament headquarters will be located at the Shellharbour Marina, 13 Marina Dr Shell Cove.

The weigh station will be positioned within the Marina basin.

The local taxi phone number is (02) 4229 9311.

8. Briefing Dinner and Presentations

The Briefing and Dinner (please advise number attending dinner on entry form) will be held at the Marina dining precinct at Georgia Rose Shell Cove, Thursday 5th March 2026 at 7:30pm. **At least one registered tournament angler from each boat MUST attend the tournament briefing.** The committee may accept special circumstances at their discretion. Late entries will be accepted until 7:00pm. No entries or crew changes will be accepted after this time. A late fee will apply.

Presentation of trophies will be on Sunday 8th March at 5:30pm at The Waterfront Tavern Sports Bar. If the alternate fishing day of Monday 9th of March is used due to weather, the presentation will occur at approximately 5:30pm on that day.

Travelling Boats

Travelling boats must not commence fishing until they are within the tournament boundaries and have contacted Tournament Base to log on. Any fish captured or T&R outside boundaries and fishing times will not be eligible in this tournament. **Please read radio schedule and fishing times for more information.**

9. Berthing

Berthing is available in Shellharbour Marina; all registered boats will get a discounted rate off fuel. To book a berth or inquire about facilities, please call the Shellharbour Marina on (02) 4250 4100.

10. Tournament Fishing Boundaries

Northern: East of Hornby Light House - 33° 50 ,000' S / 151° 17' E

Southern: East of Lateral Beacon of Crook haven Heads - 34° 54' S / 150° 46' E

11. Fishing Times

Day 1: 7.00 am to 5.00 pm

A 5.10 sched to be run by Tournament Base with an estimated time of return (ETR).

Note: Any fished hooked and reported to Tournament Base before the finish of fishing may be played out and if caught will be eligible for the tournament. The weigh station will remain open until the last capture or Tag & Release Card is presented.

Day 2: 7.00 am to 3.00 pm

A 3.10 sched to be run by Gamefish Base with an ETR

Note: Any fish hooked and notified to Tournament Base before the finish of fishing may be played out and if caught **must** be at the weigh station by 4.30pm to be eligible for tournament.

Any boats with tag cards and/or captures for weigh-in, must be **inside Shellharbour Marina entrance** by 4:30pm sharp on Day 2 of tournament. Any registered angler aboard the claimant vessel on that day may present with tag cards or captures for weigh in at the weigh station.

Should there be congestion on the actual location inside marina waiting boats, captures and tag & release cards will be accepted provided they are within the entrance to Shellharbour Marina at 4.30pm sharp

NOTE: All tag and release cards and capture certificates **MUST** be presented at the weigh station at the **COMPLETION OF EACH DAY'S FISHING** failure to do so will result in disqualification of capture / tag points.

Late fish may still be weighed at the discretion of the weighmaster but will **NOT** be eligible for tournament point score/prizes but **may still be eligible for club or zone point score as per usual fishing rules / finish times. They may be weighed at Shellharbour Harbour if the Tournament gantry is closed.**

It is the sole responsibility of the angler to ensure Capture/Tag certificates have been received by the weighmaster and are clear and legible. The decision to accept or disqualify illegible certificates will be made by the weighmaster and the tournament committee and the decision will be final.

12. Fishing Days

The tournament will take place over two days of the weather window; 6th to 9th March 2026 and the tournament committee will make the call on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at latest. If only one day is fishable the tournament will be classed as run & no refunds will apply.

13. Fishing within the Marina

No fishing is permitted within the Marina Basin defined as westward of an imaginary line between the Northern and Southern break walls to the entrance of Shellharbour Marina.

14. Weigh Station Times and Procedures

Only registered anglers' fish will be weighed

Day 1 - Open from 5:00 pm until ALL tag cards & captures are checked and recorded.

Day 2 - Open from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm

- Captured fish and Tag & Release cards may be brought to the weigh station or collection point within marina by sea only. If transported via land will result in disqualification of those tags or captures.
- Captured fish and tag and release cards must be presented to the weigh master along with completed capture and tag & release documentation daily. Capture books can be purchased for \$30.
- All tackle and equipment, including gaffs and tail ropes, used to affect the capture must also be presented for examination by the Weighmaster.
- Captured fish must be whole to be eligible to be weighed and compete for any prizes. Any fish that are not whole will be automatically disqualified and will not be weighed.
- Fish that have been weighed must be removed from the weigh station area by the angler / boat. Failure to comply with these rules will cause that capture to be disqualified from the tournament. The cleaning of fish or the removal of jaws, bills or other trophy items is forbidden within site of the weigh station.
- Unwanted carcasses are to be taken **two nautical miles eastward of Bass Point** and cut open before being disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Note: MARINE PARKS ~ No fish is to be disposed of within NSW Marine Parks. Please be aware of any restrictions within Marine Parks.

HARBOUR ~ There are heavy fines for disposing of fish in any harbour. Failure to comply will result in total disqualification from the Tournament.

15. Replacement of Boats and Anglers

Boats and anglers may not be replaced after 7.00pm on Thursday 5th March 2026 unless by special application to the Tournament Committee. Anglers may not effect a capture or tag & release on any other vessel than the vessel he/she is registered on. Captured fish, tag & release card, the angler, all equipment used in the capture or tag must be presented to the weigh station on the vessel on which the capture or tag & release was effected and may not be transferred to another vessel however in the case of an emergency situation the Tournament Committee may at their discretion allow the transfer of an angler/fish and equipment used to effect capture or tag.

16. Boat Names

ALL VESSELS must be entered into the tournament under their club registered name unless they are a sponsor of the Shellharbour Game Fishing Club Tournament: - Silver or above.

17. Safety

All vessels fishing the Tournament must be equipped with safety gear complying with the NSW Waterways regulations in force at the time. It is also advisable that an adequate (2 days) supply of food and water be carried on board.

SHELLHARBOUR GAME FISHING CLUB INC. SHALL ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ACCIDENT OR INJURY/DEATH OCCASIONED DURING THE TOURNAMENT.

18. Fishing Rules

The Tournament will be fished under the "Fishing Rules and Tackle Regulations" of the NSWGFA & GFAA as are in effect at the time. This includes bag limits and requirements made enforceable by Fisheries. In addition, the NSW GFA point score Fishing Rules and Minimum weights shall apply

The competition is open to teams comprised of anglers who are financial members of any club affiliated with NSWGFA, GFAA, IGFA **ONLY**. ANSA membership will not be acknowledged. In the case of any tie-on points the decision will go to the first achievement of accumulated points as set out by SHELLHARBOUR GAME FISHING CLUB, based on time. If no time is recorded, it will be deemed to be caught at 4.59 pm on day 1 and 2.59 pm on the day 2 unless known to have been caught later.

Line Classes

4kg, 6kg, 8kg, 10kg, 15kg, 24kg, 37kg, 60kg

Multi-filament lines can be used in this Tournament providing NSWGFA rules apply

Minimum Weights

Marlin must weigh a minimum weight of 130kg on any line class to be eligible for 2nd heaviest marlin, once that weight is reached no fish under that weight will be weighed, calculation will be of current charts supplied in journal, the Weighmaster will make the call if it's close to decide whether to weigh fish in doubt.

A CAPTURE FOUND TO VARY MORE THAN 20% FROM THE REPORTED MEASUREMENT MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE TOURNAMENT

Captures

Winners shall be awarded as following:

- *Heaviest Blue Marlin*: Winner will be the heaviest blue marlin exceeding 175kg.
- *2nd Heaviest Marlin*: Winner will be the heaviest marlin exceeding 130kg.

Tag and Release

Will be awarded by Most Marlin Tagged. ***LINE CLASS POINTS ARE NOT USED***

GFAA / NSWGFA Rules and Tackle Regulations must be observed to be eligible. A minimum of 3 tags is required to be eligible for 'most tagged' prizes, excluding Junior and Small Fry Anglers.

Tag and Release Rules

The Shellharbour Blue Water Classic tournament committee will nominate specific items and/or phrases required to be included in photographic and/or video evidence to verify that all claimed T&R fish have been caught during the prescribed tournament fishing times as set out in the Tournament Rules.

Acceptance Criteria of evidence with specified items and/or phrases are as follows:

- Photographic evidence captured by means of: **Any device with a date and time stamp.**
- Video evidence captured by means of: **Any device with a date and time stamp.**

Capture / Tag & Release Recording

Capture or Tag & Release returns MUST be completed and correct in all details before arriving at the weigh station along with all accompanying date and time-stamped photographic/video evidence. This includes the time of Capture or Tag and Release. Trophies will be awarded based on the information given. **Failure to record the time of Capture or Tag and Release on the return paperwork will result in the time being set at the end of fishing for the day.**

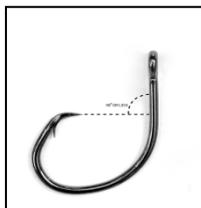
*** Verification of Capture or Tag & Release will be notified to your club by mail ASAP. ***

Failure to comply will result in no points being awarded. The committee may ask to see this evidence at their discretion

All Billfish **MUST** be tagged with the Billfish Tag. This is the only tag that will be recognised for Billfish in any tournament, competition, point score or trophy. **The Billfish Tag is for Billfish only point score (no other species)**

Circle Hooks

Circle hooks are permitted to be used for live baiting and trolling natural baits. (Whether live, dead, mutilated or dissected) except in the case of targeting Narrow Barred Mackerel. NOTE: no points to be scored for any species caught while using live baits and/or trolling baits with "J" hooks



CIRCLE HOOK DEFINITION

A hook with its point turned 90 degrees or less back towards the shank of the hook.

The Method of Releasing Tagged Fish

The hook is to be removed OR the leader cut as close as possible to the fish.

19. 2ND DAY OF COMPETITION

Vessels must leave Shellharbour Marina on the 2nd day of competition. Failure to do so will result in no points allocated for that day.

20. Shoot Out

To be held on **DAY 1** of the tournament. This is a separate, two category, stand-alone competition.

- Entry fee of **\$200.00** per boat, in addition to tournament entry fees, is required to be eligible.
- The prize pool is to be determined by boats entered (less 20% for Shellharbour GFC) split evenly for the following two categories:
 - o MOST MARLIN TAGGED BY BOAT
 - o HEAVIEST MARLIN over 130kg
- No line class points. GFAA / NSWGFA Rules and Tackle Regulations must be observed to be eligible.

21. SHELLHARBOUR GAME FISHING CLUB \$50,000 HEAVIEST PACIFIC BLUE MARLIN OVER 175KG

There will be one winner only.

- The prize pool is **FIFTY THOUSAND** Australian dollars (\$50,000 AUD).
- Entry fee of **\$350.00** per boat, in addition to tournament entry fees is required to be eligible.
- Any 175kg+ Pacific Blue Marlin caught that is eligible to claim the 'BEST SHEDS Blue Water Classic \$50,000 Heaviest Pacific Blue Marlin over 175kg's' will also be eligible to claim:
 - o Shootout Heaviest Marlin (if entered in this category)
 - o Heaviest Marlin by Junior (if captured by a Junior Angler).
- GFAA / NSWGFA Rules and Tackle Regulations must be observed to be eligible.

22. The Process for Disqualification

There must be a meeting of the Committee to discuss the proposal to disqualify the Capture / Tag & Release. The skipper whose fish is proposed to be disqualified will be advised **one hour (1)** prior to the meeting of the Committee and have the right to present his or her case at that meeting.

23. Non-registered Anglers

All persons onboard any competing vessels **MUST BE ENTERED INTO THE TOURNAMENT AS A REGISTERED ANGLER**.

Failure to comply will result in the disqualification of **ALL POINTS** for that day.

24. Trophy Limit

A single fish can win multiple categories outlined within the 2026 Shellharbour Game Fishing Club Blue Water Classic.

25. Radio Scheds

- Radio Scheds (Skeds) will be conducted as per the **"NSWGFA Guidelines for Radio Scheds for Tournaments"**.
- All competing vessels must be equipped with a serviceable VHF radio.
- "Tournament Base" will conduct skeds at 2 hourly intervals commencing at 8.10am on VHF channel 82.
- Tournament Base will continue to operate both days until all vessels return to port, or operations are handed over to the Volunteer Coast Guard.
- The number of people onboard is to be advised during the first sked of the day.
- Boats are to report on each sked as follows:
 - o 1. Boat Number
 - o 2. Boat Name
 - o 3. Accurate Fishing Report – using the "000" system, ie Strikes – Hook ups – Captures/Tags and specify Species – Line Class – Angler and accurate approximation of weight of fish.
 - o 4. Position – using the Map supplied and grid chart reference and whether boat is currently trolling, drifting etc.
- Short length must be taken at the time of capture.
Billfish are to be measured from the lower jaw to the fork of the tail (short measurement).
The length in centimetres must be included in the sked report, along with an estimated weight based on the NSWGFA weight/Length curve book.

A CAPTURE FOUND TO VARY MORE THAN 20% FROM THE REPORTED MEASUREMENT MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE TOURNAMENT

- Vessels must sign on when leaving port or on the first sked and sign off when entering port at the end of fishing. Vessels failing to do so without good reason, WILL BE DEDUCTED 1 MARLIN.

Reporting of all captures and tag & release to be done only during skeds, except for late hook ups after the 4.10pm sked on Day 1 and 3.10 on Day 2

- Vessels must keep airways clear 10 minutes prior to end of fishing on each day to allow reporting of late hook-ups. **Only HOOK UPS are to be called in this 10 minutes of silence.** The capture or loss of fish to be included in 'post' fishing sked. **Late Hook ups MUST be verified by tournament base to be eligible.**
- Any boat experiencing a breakdown and returning to port for repairs and must contact a member of the tournament committee by radio or by phone and inform them of their intentions.
- Any boat experiencing a breakdown of radio communication is to immediately contact another boat in the vicinity, have them advise Tournament Base of the problem and return to nearest port for repairs.
- Any vessel failing to contact Tournament Base on two consecutive skeds will automatically activate a search by the relevant statutory authorities.

26. All Boats must return to marina under their own power.

No points or captures will be counted if a boat is towed back to Marina.

27. Bad Weather and Safety

In the event of the tournament being cancelled in part or whole, there will be no refunds given to registered anglers after Thursday the 5th of March 2026, 19:00 (7pm). However, if the tournament is cancelled before 7:00pm Thursday the 5th March 2026, a refund will be given (excluding tournament dinner cost). The refund will be issued to skipper's bank account within 10 working days of cancellation/bank details being provided.

A declaration of a Gale Warning by the appropriate government weather authority will automatically require the cancellation of the tournament. In the event of a declaration, whilst vessels are at sea, such vessels are required to cease fishing immediately and return to port. Any Captures / Tags affected before the cancellation of the tournament will be eligible for the tournament.

***** Cancellation of the tournament will only apply until the Gale Warning is lifted *****

It is the responsibility of the skipper and crew to decide whether to put to sea with regard to the weather conditions and the ability of the boat and crew to handle those conditions. Safety equipment as laid down by the NSW Waterways Authority regulations must be carried. The Shellharbour Game Fishing Club Inc and the Committee accepts no responsibility or liability for the safety or conduct of competing anglers, loss or damage to any person, property boats and equipment, or personal injury or death at any time during the tournament.

28. Sale of Fish

Any fish weighed shall not be sold or bartered. Such fish shall be ineligible for any trophies or awards. Anyone found to have sold their catch will be disqualified from the tournament.

In the event of a Marlin given away for eating, ONLY the fillets may be given away and the remaining carcass is the responsibility of the SKIPPER & CREW & MUST BE DUMPED AT LEAST 2 NAUTICAL MILES EAST OF BASS POINT

29. Misconduct

The tournament committee may, on its own initiative, investigate and act upon any incident of misconduct by an angler on a boat, be he/she registered for the tournament or not occurring during the tournament. The committee may impose penalties of loss of points, disqualification of fish, angler, boat or team and refusal of entry to future club tournaments. All competitors are reminded that as members of a club they are regarded as representatives of that club, as such, any unbecoming behaviour reflects adversely on the club and indeed on all Game Fishers, hence, the tournament committee reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary in these circumstances.

30. Penalties

Breaches of these tournament rules, or rules & equipment regulations of GFAA & NSWGFA, shall result in loss of points and prizes or disqualification from the tournaments as determined by the tournament committee.

Penalties: Can apply to BOTH Capture and Tag & Release Points.

Note: Tournament rules are binding on all competitors & officials.

Please Note: NSWGFA takes no responsibility and liability in any manner for any prizes not honoured by either the member club, or a third party involved in this tournament.

Please ensure that you read all conditions set out on the "Tournament Condition Form", if any of these conditions are not adhered to by the Club, it could face disciplinary action.

31. Protests

Protests must be made in writing and presented to the Tournament Committee no later than 4.00pm on the second day of the tournament.

32. Media statements and social media presence

Anglers are advised that there are to be no comments made to the/on media/social media regarding the tournament.

33. The full trophy list will be published on entry forms

STANDALONE CATEGORY

Heaviest Pacific Blue Marlin – Over 175kgs - \$50,000

1 DAY SHOOTOUT:

Heaviest Marlin 130kg+

Most Marlin by Boat

TOURNAMENT CATEGORIES

2nd Heaviest Marlin 130kgs+

Most Tagged Marlin by boat (over 8 metres in length)

Most Tagged Marlin by boat (up to 8 metres in length)

Most Tagged Marlin by Female

Heaviest Marlin by Junior 80kgs+

Most Tagged Marlin by Junior

Most Tagged Gamefish by Small Fry